Statement "B'

The Statement Showing Yearwise Expenditure on Pax Amenities

(Rupees in Crores)

	Food Svcs. to Pax	Interrupted Trip Exp.	Other Pax Svcs.	Total	Percentage of Operating Ex. (%)
1986-87	13.74	2.71	1.12	17.57	2.5%
1987-88	14.86	3.78	1.33	19.97	2.5%
1988-89	16.44	7.72	1.43	25.59	3.0%
1989-90	17.87	10.10	1.83	29.80	3.0%
1990-91	18.75	6.68	1.93	27.36	2.5%
1991-92	22.01	8.95	2.69	33.65	2.4%
1992-93	21.28	9.51	3.47	34.26	2.2%
1993-94	31.55	8.50	4.97	45.02	2.4%

NOTE:

1. Food services includes the food served to the passengers on Board.
2. Interrupted Trip Expenses includes expenditure on Hotel Accommodation, Taxi Hire, Food Services on ground, Telephone/Trunkcall expenses etc.
3. The other amentities includes expenditure on News Papers/Magazine, Sweets/Toffies, Hot & Cold Towel etc. served to the Passengers.

khaaton mein lakhon pravishtiyon ke milaan nahin appearing in the "Dainik Jagran' dated 15th August, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the frauds in the banks that have come to light in the recent past and action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken to check these frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There were 65.55 lakh entries outstanding in inter-branch reconciliation accounts of public sector banks covering period upto 31.3.1993. RBI has given instructions to banks for speedy reconciliation of inter-branch accounts.

(d) and (e) During the period from 1st January, 1994 to September, 1994, the total number of frauds reported by public sector banks to RBI was 1721 (including overseas branches) and the total amount involved in these frauds was Rs. 18,315.65 lakhs plus U. Sh. 9844000.

The public sector banks at the instance of the Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for prevention and prompt detection of frauds. These steps include issuing of comprehensives guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, setting up a Special Investigation Cell in RBI, proper training of operational personnel etc. The banks have also been impressed upon to clear the arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas. RBI also monitors the progress made by the banks in implementation of various accepted recommendations of the Ghosh Committee which looked into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in banks.

Fraud in National Clearing Cell of RBI

2190. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Clearing Cell of Reserve Bank of India has detected a fraud of about Rs. 200 crores as reported

in the 'Times of India' dated the 3rd September, 1994;

(b) if so, who has defrauded whom; and

(c) what is the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a fraud was detected in the National Clearing Centre (NCC) of RBI at Bombay on 30th July, 1994. 48 cheques for a total amount of Rs. 13.24 lakhs are suspected to have been pilfered from the lots of cheques presented by 15 member banks including one sub-member bank at the NCC. Four machine operators working in the NCC along with some outside parties are suspected to be behind the fraud perpetrated on the 15 members banks of the NCC. The Central Bureau of Investigation, Bombay have taken up investigations into the fraud and the RBI have placed the four machine operators under suspention and departmental proceeding have been initiated against them.

The RBI has alerted all its branches managing the clearing houses about the modus operandi followed in the fraud and to take necessary steps to prevent recurrence of the fraud. The member banks of the clearing house have been advised to reconcile their clearing differences on a regular basis and be very vigilant to avoid accumulation of clearing differences.

Smuggling of Gold

2191. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is spurt in gold smuggling into the country following liberalization process;

(b) if so, the quantity of gold seized during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what further steps Government are considering to check gold smuggling into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) There has been no spurt in smuggling of gold into the country following liberalized imports of gold.

(b) The quantity of gold seized during last three years is as follows:

Year	Qty. in Kgs.
1992-93	2339
1993-94	1233
1994-95* (Upto Feb., 95)	1069

*Figures are provisional.

(c) Anti smuggling agencies of the Central and State Government are alert to detect & prevent smuggling including smuggling of gold.

Foreign Aid

2192. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 989 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1994 and state:

(a) why loans are being described as "aid' or "assistance'.

(b) why does Government seek foreign loans for projects life afforestation or slum clearance etc.; and

(c) whether Government will consider taking foreign loans for projects needing foreign technology and only to that extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The external assistance from bilateral and multilateral official sources consists of loans as well as grants. These loans are received on highly concessional terms, i.e. on lower rate of interest, as opposed to commercial borrowings and longer repayment period. Hence, these are called aid or assistance.

(b) Since the conditions of loans in sectors like afforestation, slum clearance etc. are very soft compared to other sectors, there is demand for availing of such concessional loans. In view of the demand from the line Ministries / State Governments, concessional loans are sought.

(c) No, Sir. Government usually resorts to foreign loans for meeting the resource gap and for implementing various projects in various